



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**Bacteria TMDLs – Action on NAPA River, LA Region** – The proposed Napa River Pathogen TMDL sets a “density-based” wasteload allocation for municipal runoff of 126 CFU/100 ml (geometric mean) for *E. coli*. River sampling showed that about 20% of samples exceeded targets for both wet and dry seasons with exceedances most common in urbanized tributaries. For comparison, the Caltrans *Discharge Characterization Study Report* in statewide sampling found a median value in highway runoff for fecal coliform of 362 MPN/100ml (the fecal coliform group consists mostly of *E. coli*). Caltrans is completing research on pathogen detection techniques in this area, which may yield information that will aid in monitoring and adaptive implementation of the TMDLs (see *NewsFlash 06-05*). NAPA River TMDL:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/napariverpathogentmdl.htm> Similar TMDL for Sonoma Creek: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/sonomacrkrpathogentmdl.htm>

In related news, the LA Board is planning to approve five resolutions in support of implementation plans for Bacteria TMDLs in the Region including those for the Jurisdictional Groups of the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria TMDL. The TMDLs generally establish a specific number of days that a beach can have detected exceedances above the Basin Plan standards for bacteria levels for recreational use (fecal coliform density < 400/100 ml; single sample). The number of allowable exceedance days is based on the exceedances at a relatively uncontaminated reference beach where the exceedances are assumed to be caused by natural sources, such as birds and other wildlife. Caltrans is participating in the Jurisdictional Groups.

The Santa Monica Beach TMDL proposes gradual reductions in exceedances with final targets met in 18 years (except for one area that already meets standards). As recommended by the Board, the Jurisdictional Group plans use an “integrated water resources approach that takes a holistic view of regional water resources management” by integrating other water resources and needs. Because of the uncertainties regarding whether the implementation plans will achieve final compliance with the TMDLs, Board staff is recommending that the responsible parties begin planning for potentially more costly regional solutions, presumably runoff collection and treatment. <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/html/bpaRes/bpa.html>

**Sediment Quality Objectives (SQOs) - Steering committee meets** – The State Water Resources Control Board is developing sediment quality objectives (SQO) which will be used by the regulatory agencies in a similar fashion to water quality objectives. SQOs do not exist on the federal level and the development process for state SQOs has been lengthy. Some contaminated sediment sites were caused or contributed to by storm water discharges so MS4 agencies are likely to be impacted by the SQOs as contaminated sites are identified and cleaned up. The Scientific Steering Committee developing SQOs met February 28. The technical and policy presentations are posted: [http://www.sccwrp.org/meeting/sqo\\_ssc\\_2006.html](http://www.sccwrp.org/meeting/sqo_ssc_2006.html)

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